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2123	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/801,145	MIZUMAKI, HIDETAKA	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Russ Guill	2123	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 June 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18, 20 and 22-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18, 20 and 22-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to an Amendment filed June 13, 2007. Claims 1 - 18, 20 and 22 - 24 have been examined. Claims 1 - 18, 20 and 22 - 24 have been rejected.
2. **The Examiner would like to thank the Applicant for the well-presented response, which was useful in the examination process. The Examiner appreciates the effort to carefully analyze the Office Action, and make appropriate and clear arguments and amendments.**

Response to Remarks

3. Regarding claims 1, 17, 20 and 22 - 25 objected to for not defining the term IC in the claims:
 - a. Applicant's claim amendments overcome the objections.
4. Regarding claims 22 and 23 objected to for a non-standard preamble:
 - a. Applicant's arguments have been fully considered, and are persuasive.
5. Regarding claims 19, 21, 24 and 25 objected to for being of improper dependent form:
 - a. Applicant's arguments have been fully considered, and are persuasive.
6. Regarding claims 1 - 16 rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph:
 - a. Applicant's claim amendments overcome the rejection.
7. Regarding claims 17 - 25 rejected under 35 USC § 101:
 - a. Applicant's arguments have been fully considered, and are persuasive.
 - b. The Applicant argues:

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c. Claims 17-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Examiner alleged that claims 17-25 appear to be entirely drawn to software and do not appear to produce a tangible result. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

d. First, each of claims 17, 18, 20, and 22-24 recite structure (e.g., "storing means", "means for transmitting", etc.) which falls within an enumerated category of statutory subject matter under 35 U.S.C. § 101 and, thus, cannot be entirely software. The Examiner's reliance on paragraphs [0058] and [0080] in Applicant's specification as evidence that the manager or design terminal is entirely software is misplaced. For example, paragraph [0058] states that the manager or design terminal "may be implemented either as hardware components or by introducing a software program into a computer. In the latter case, the program is preferably defined so as to make the computer function as the respective means of the manager or design terminal'

(emphasis added). Accordingly, claims 17, 18, 20, and 22-24 are not drawn entirely to software, as alleged by the Examiner.

e. Second, each of claims 17, 18, 20, and 22-24 clearly produce a tangible result, i.e., a real-world result, since the claims clearly set forth structure that manages and/or designs integrated circuits. Thus, claims 17, 18, 20, and 22-24 have a tangible result.

f. Third, claims 22 and 23 have been amended to more clearly recite a computer readable medium, which is well accepted statutory subject matter under 35 U.S.C. § 101. The Examiner should note that the structure recited in the body of claims 22 and 23 is not a program *per se*, but rather a computer loaded with the program (note, in particular, the transitional phrase "by making a computer function as:").

g. Claims 19, 21, and 25 have been canceled.

h. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 17, 18, 20, and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

8. Regarding claims 1 - 14 and 17 - 25 rejected under 35 USC § 103:

a. Applicant's arguments have been fully considered, but are not persuasive, as follows.

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b. The Applicant argues:

c. Claims 19, 21, and 25 have been canceled. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections of claims 1-18, 20, and 22-24.

d. Amended claim 1 recites:

A method for designing a new integrated circuit (IC) based on IC designing information transmitted from a manager, the IC designing information including standard library designing information and custom library designing information and being stored in, and managed by, the manager, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) transmitting at least part of the IC designing information, including a portion of the standard library designing information, from the manager to a design terminal through the Internet;

(b) designing the new IC by a user located at the design terminal in accordance with the at least part of the IC designing information;

(c) transmitting newly designed IC information, including new IC testing information to evaluate the new IC, from the design terminal to the manager through the Internet;

(d) evaluating the new IC by the manager based on the newly designed IC information; and

(e) **adding at least part of the newly designed IC information to the custom library designing information that is stored in the manager, thereby updating the custom library designing information.**

(emphasis added)

e. Applicant's claims 17, 20, and 22-24 recite features that are similar to the features and method steps recited in Applicant's claim 1, including the above-emphasized features and method step. With the unique combination and arrangement of features and method steps recited in Applicant's claim 1, including the features and method step of "adding at least part of the newly designed IC information to the custom library designing information that is stored in the manager, thereby updating the custom library designing information," Applicant has been able to provide an IC designing method that allows an IC designer to design an IC conveniently and efficiently, and a design manager, a computer terminal for designing (design terminal), an IC designing system and a program product for use in the designing method (see, for example, paragraph [0008] in Applicant's originally filed specification).

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f. The Examiner alleged that the combination of Chen et al., Dole, and Haase teaches all of the features and method steps recited in claims 1, 17, 20, and 22-24. In particular, the Examiner alleged that Chen et al. teach standard library designing information 220, custom library designing information 208, and adding at least part of the newly designed IC information to the custom library designing information that is stored in the manager, thereby updating the custom library designing information. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

g. Chen et al. teach that the SOC designs 208 correspond to a new IC. See, for example, paragraph [0005] of Chen et al., which teaches:

i. Increasingly, designers are putting an entire system in an IC, known as system on chip or SOC. The concept of re-useable intellectual property (IP) or components has emerged to facilitate designers in designing SOC, using existing IP (components) for the "standard" function blocks (such as the compute core, the system bus, memory and the like). (emphasis added)

h. More specifically, Chen et al. teach in paragraph [0032] that IP packages 206 are used to create the SOC designs 208.

i. ... the present invention includes IP packages 206 constituted in accordance with the teachings of the present invention, and PBS D EDA Tool Suite 204 incorporated with functions and elements provided in accordance with the teachings of the present invention, to enable designers 202 to efficiently select and employ the IP of IP packages 206 to form SOC designs 208, and/or to verify SOC designs 208.

(emphasis added)

i. As shown in Fig. 2 of Chen et al., the designer 202 selects from the IP packages 206 to form SOC designs 208, and the SOC designs 208 designed by the designer 202 may be stored in and retrieved from the repository 270. The constituting parts 220 of Chen et al., which the Examiner alleged corresponds to the standard library designing information, may include the various elements of the IP packages 206 that are imported into the repository 270, i.e., hardware components 220, embedded software 224, and test vectors 226. See, for example, paragraphs [0046] and [0051] of Chen et al. Note that the constituting

parts 220 originate within the IP packages 206 in Fig. 2 of Chen et al.

j. Thus, the SOC designs 208 of Chen et al. more closely correspond to the new IC, and the IP packages 206 of Chen et al. more closely correspond to the standard library designing information used to create the new IC. Although Chen et al. teach customizable attributes and UI element descriptions 216, the customizable attributes and UI element descriptions 216 are included with the IP packages 206 (see, for example, Fig. 2 of Chen et al.).

k. More importantly, the IP packages 206 of Chen et al. are only available for downloading when designing the SOC designs 208 as evidenced by the one-way arrow between the IP packages 206 box and the PBS D EDA Tool Suite 204 box shown in Fig. 2 of Chen et al. Thus, the designer 202 is able to select from the IP packages 206 to design the SOC designs 208, but the designer 202 is not capable of saving or adding the SOC designs 208 to the IP packages 206 to become part of the IP available for other designers. There is absolutely no teaching or suggestion by Chen et al. that the SOC designs 208 may be used by other designers.

l. Thus, the combination of Chen et al., Dole, and Haase clearly fails to teach or suggest the features and method step of "adding at least part of the newly designed IC information to the custom library designing information that is stored in the manager, thereby updating the custom library designing information" as recited in Applicant's claim 1, and similarly in Applicant's claims 17, 20, and 22-24.

- i. The Examiner respectfully replies:
- ii. While the Examiner appreciates the Applicant's clear arguments, the Examiner respectfully disagrees, as follows.
- iii. First, the Applicant appears to redefine the standard library designing information to be element 206 of Chen (whereas the Office Action recites element 220 as the standard library designing information), and then addresses arguments to the redefined standard library.

Therefore, the arguments do not appear to be directed to the rejections as recited in the Office Action, which renders the arguments not persuasive.

iv. Second, the Applicant's arguments appear to be directed to features that are not recited in the claims:

(1) The argument recites, "the IP packages 206 of Chen et al. are only available for downloading when designing the SOC designs 208 as evidenced by the one-way arrow between the IP packages 206 box and the PBS D EDA Tool Suite 204 box shown in Fig. 2 of Chen et al. Thus, the designer 202 is able to select from the IP packages 206 to design the SOC designs 208, but the designer 202 is not capable of saving or adding the SOC designs 208 to the IP packages 206 to become part of the IP available for other designers".

However, the claims do not appear to recite a limitation that the designer is capable of saving SOC designs to the IP packages.

Again, it appears that the argument is directed to the Applicant's redefinition of the standard library designing information.

(2) The argument recites, "There is absolutely no teaching or suggestion by Chen et al. that the SOC designs 208 may be used by other designers". However, the claims do not appear to recite a limitation that the SOC designs may be used by other designers.

v. Third, Chen appears to suggest that SOC designs may be used by other designers because figure 20 and paragraph [0129] teach the SOC designs stored on a server 2006 with multiple client devices 2002 accessing the server 2006, and it would have been obvious to the ordinary artisan at the time of invention that data stored on a server was accessible by multiple clients.

vi. In summary, as recited above, the Applicant disagrees that Chen teaches "standard library designing information 220, custom library designing information 208, and adding at least part of the newly designed IC information to the custom library designing information that is stored in the manager, thereby updating the custom library designing information". However, Chen appears to teach the limitations, "standard library designing information" (figure 2, element 220), "custom library designing information" (figure 2, element 208), and "adding at least part of the newly designed IC information to the custom library designing information that is stored in the manager" (figure 2, elements 208).

m. The Applicant argues:

n. The Examiner relied upon Frank et al. to allegedly cure deficiencies of Chen et al., Dole, and Haase. However, Frank et al. clearly fail to teach or suggest the features and method step of "adding at least part of the newly designed IC information to the custom library designing information that is stored in the manager, thereby updating the custom library designing information," as recited in Applicant's claim 1, and similarly in Applicant's claims 17, 20, and 22-24. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Frank et al. fail to cure the deficiencies of Chen et al., Dole, and Haase described above.

o. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Frank et al. fail to cure the deficiencies of Chen et al., Dole, and Haase described above.

p. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Chen et al., Dole, Haase, and Frank et al., applied alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the unique combination and arrangement of features and method steps recited in Applicant's claim 1, and similarly in Applicant's claims 17, 20, and 22-24.

q. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 17, 20, and 22-24 are allowable. Claims 2-16 and 18 depend upon claims 1 and 17, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons that claims 1 and 17 are allowable.

- i. The Examiner respectfully replies:
- ii. As discussed above, Chen appears to teach the limitation, "adding at least part of the newly designed IC information to the custom library designing information that is stored in the manager, thereby updating the custom library designing information," and therefore the argument is not persuasive.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

9. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

a. Claims 22 - 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

- i. Regarding claims 22 and 23, the claims recite in lines 1 - 2, "A computer readable storage medium for storing a program". It is unclear whether the intention is to claim an article of manufacture (computer readable medium), or whether the claim is directed to a machine described in the limitations. For the purpose of claim examination, the phrase is interpreted as, "A computer readable storage medium on which is stored a program". Correction or amendment is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

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10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. **Claims 1 - 14 and 17 - 18, 20, 22 - 24** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0009730) in view of Dole (U.S. Patent Number 6,634,008), further in view of Haase (Jurgen Haase; "Design Methodology for IP Providers", 1999, Design, Automation and Test in Europe, five unnumbered pages).

- a. The art of Chen is directed to an electronic automation design system (Abstract).
- b. The art of Dole is directed to an electronic automation design system (Abstract).
- c. The art of Haase is directed to a design methodology for intellectual property (IP) providers (Title and Abstract).
- d. The art of Chen and the art of Dole are analogous art because they both contain the art of electronic automation design.
- e. The art of Chen and the art of Haase are analogous art because they both pertain to the art of using intellectual property packages (Chen, figure 2, element 206; and Haase, first page).
- f. Regarding **claim 1**:
- g. Chen appears to teach:
- h. A method for designing a new integrated circuit (IC) based on IC designing information, the IC designing information including standard library designing information and custom library designing information

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and being stored (figure 20, elements 2002, 2006; and figure 2, elements 204, 270, 220, 208; it would have been obvious that parts 220 were standard library information, and SOC Designs 208 were custom library designing information).

i. a portion of the standard library designing information (figure 2, element 220; it would have been obvious that parts were standard library designing information);

j. (b) designing the new IC by a user located at the design terminal in accordance with the at least part of the IC designing information (Abstract and figure 2; it would have been obvious that an IC was designed on a design terminal);

k. new IC testing information to evaluate the new IC (paragraph 40, last sentence; it would have been obvious that a new IC had testing information, for example refer to Haase below);

l. (d) evaluating the new IC by a manager based on the newly designed IC information (paragraph 40, last sentence; it would have been obvious that the new IC was evaluated by testing using the EDA software, which is a manager);

m. (e) adding at least part of the newly designed IC information to the custom library designing information that is stored, thereby updating the custom library designing information (figure 2, element 208; it would be obvious that SOC designs were custom library information that were stored and updated).

n. Chen does not specifically teach (in **bold italic underline**):

O. A method for designing a new integrated circuit (IC) based on IC designing information transmitted from a manager, the IC designing information including standard library designing information and custom library designing information and being stored in, and managed by, the manager.

p. (a) transmitting at least part of the IC designing information, including a portion of the standard library designing information, from the manager to a design terminal through the Internet;

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Q. (c) transmitting newly designed IC information, including new IC testing information to evaluate the new IC, from the design terminal to the manager through the Internet;

R. (d) evaluating the new IC by the manager based on the newly designed IC information; and

S. (e) adding at least part of the newly designed IC information to the custom library designing information that is stored in the manager, thereby updating the custom library designing information.

t. Dole appears to teach:

U. ~~A method for designing a new IC based on~~ IC designing information transmitted from a manager, the IC designing information ~~including standard library designing information and custom library designing information and~~ being stored in, and managed by, the manager (figure 3, figure 4, and column 7, lines 35 - 45; it would have been obvious that design information on a server was transmitted by a manager, since the server and its software are a manager);

V. (b) designing the new IC by a user located at the design terminal in accordance with the at least part of the IC designing information (figure 2 and figure 3; it would have been obvious that a user designed a new IC at the design terminal);

W. transmitting at least part of the IC designing information, ~~including a portion of the standard library designing information, from the manager to a design terminal through the Internet~~ (figure 2, Internet connected to servers; and figure 3, and column 7, lines 35 - 45; and column 6, lines 44 - 48; it would have been obvious that design information on a server was transmitted using the Internet, wherein a server and its software are a manager);

X. transmitting newly designed IC information, ~~including new IC testing information to evaluate the new IC, from the design terminal to the manager through the Internet~~ (figure 2, Internet connected to servers; and figure 3, and column 7, lines 35 - 45; and column 6, lines 44 - 48; it would have been obvious that design information on a workstation was

transmitted to a server using the Internet, wherein a server and its software are a manager);

y. Haase appears to teach:

z. (d) evaluating the new IC by a manager based on the newly designed IC information (third and fourth pages, section 2.4 Verification, especially automatic verification and running full tests without any user interaction; and fourth page, figure 2, automatic self-checking verification);

aa. It would have been obvious to the ordinary artisan at the time of invention to have both the standard library designing information and the custom library information of Chen on the server (manager) of Dole.

bb. It would have been obvious to the ordinary artisan at the time of invention to have the automatic verification of Haase installed in the server (manager) of Dole.

cc. The motivation to use the art of Haase with the art of Chen would have been the benefits recited in Haase that the benefits of reusing IP is solving a key problem of verification (second page, section 2.1, first paragraph and first bullet item). The ordinary artisan would have recognized solving the verification problem as a benefit to save time. However, at a higher level, another motivation to use the art of Haase with the art of Chen would have simply been the automated verification of running full tests without any user interaction, described in section 2.4, which would have been recognized by the ordinary artisan as a benefit to save time.

dd. The motivation to use the art of Dole with the art of Chen would have been the benefit that storing files and libraries in one location allows for a systematic approach to access and maintainability of design related information (column 7, lines 40 - 45), which would have been recognized as a benefit by the ordinary

artisan to save time and expense. However, at a higher level, another motivation to use the art of Dole with the art of Chen would have simply been the benefits provided by the invention of providing a system for distributed design of integrated circuits (entire patent), which would have been recognized by the ordinary artisan as a benefit to save time and expense in designing an integrated circuit.

ee. Therefore, as discussed above, it would have been obvious to the ordinary artisan at the time of invention to use the art of Dole and the art of Haase with the art of Chen to produce the claimed invention.

ff. Regarding claim 2:

gg. Chen appears to teach:

hh. wherein the step (c) includes the step of transmitting new IC connection information, and wherein the step (e) includes the step of adding the new IC connection information as custom library connection information to the custom library designing information (figure 2, element 214, physical pin; and figure 12a, elements 1214a, 1216).

ii. Regarding claim 3:

jj. Chen does not specifically teach:

kk. making new IC evaluation information based on a result of the evaluation;

ll. adding the new IC evaluation information to the newly designed IC information, wherein the step (e) includes the step of adding the new IC evaluation information as custom library evaluation information to the custom library designing information.

mm. Dole appears to teach:

nn.adding the new IC evaluation information to the newly designed IC information, wherein the step (e) includes the step of adding the new IC evaluation information as custom library evaluation information to the custom library designing information (figure 2, Internet connected to servers; and figure 3, and column 7, lines 35 - 45; and column 6, lines 44 - 48).

oo. Haase appears to teach:

pp.making new IC evaluation information based on a result of the evaluation (third and fourth pages, section 2.4 Verification, especially automatic verification and running full tests without any user interaction; and fourth page, figure 2, automatic self-checking verification);

qq. Regarding claim 4:

rr. Chen does not specifically teach:

ss. wherein the step (a) includes the step of transmitting at least a portion of the custom library designing information as the at least part of the IC designing information.

tt. Dole appears to teach:

uu.wherein the step (a) includes the step of transmitting at least a portion of the custom library designing information as the at least part of the IC designing information (figure 2, Internet connected to servers; and figure 3, and column 7, lines 35 - 45; and column 6, lines 44 - 48).

vv. Regarding claim 5:

ww. Chen does not specifically teach:

XX. wherein the step (a) includes the step of transmitting the custom library connection information as the at least part of the IC designing information.

yy. Dole appears to teach:

ZZ. wherein the step (a) includes the step of transmitting the custom library connection information as the at least part of the IC designing information (figure 2, Internet connected to servers; and figure 3, and column 7, lines 35 - 45; and column 6, lines 44 - 48; since connection information is taught in Chen (figure 2, element 214), it would have been obvious that the connection information was transmitted).

aaa. Regarding claim 6:

bbb. Chen does not specifically teach:

ccc. wherein the step (a) includes the step of transmitting the custom library evaluation information as the at least part of the IC designing information.

ddd. Dole appears to teach:

eee. wherein the step (a) includes the step of transmitting the custom library evaluation information as the at least part of the IC designing information (figure 2, Internet connected to servers; and figure 3, and column 7, lines 35 - 45; and column 6, lines 44 - 48; since Chen teaches design evaluation information, it would have been obvious that it was transmitted to the server).

fff. Regarding claim 7:

ggg. Chen appears to teach:

hhh. wherein the step (e) includes the step of adding the new IC testing information as custom library testing information to the custom library designing information (paragraph 40, last sentence; it would

have been obvious that a new IC had testing information, for example refer to Haase);

iii. Chen does not specifically teach:

jjj. wherein the step (a) includes the step of transmitting the custom library testing information as the at least part of the IC designing information.

kkk. Dole appears to teach:

lll. wherein the step (a) includes the step of transmitting the custom library testing information as the at least part of the IC designing information (figure 2, Internet connected to servers; and figure 3, and column 7, lines 35 - 45; and column 6, lines 44 - 48).

mmm. Regarding claim 8:

nnn. Chen does not specifically teach:

ooo. wherein the step (a) includes the steps of: making the manager determine whether or not the given design terminal belongs among authorized design terminals and/or whether or not the given user belongs among authorized users; and

ppp. transmitting the custom library designing information as the at least part of the IC designing information to the design terminal provided that the given design terminal is identified as one of the authorized design terminals and/or that the given user is identified as one of the authorized users.

qqq. Dole appears to teach:

rrr. wherein the step (a) includes the steps of: making the manager determine whether or not the given design terminal belongs among authorized design terminals and/or whether or not the given user belongs among authorized users (figure 2, Internet connected to servers; and figure 3, and column 7, lines 35 - 45; and column 6, lines 44 - 48; it would have been obvious that a server authenticates potential users);

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SSS. transmitting the custom library designing information as the at least part of the IC designing information to the design terminal provided that the given design terminal is identified as one of the authorized design terminals and/or that the given user is identified as one of the authorized users (figure 2, Internet connected to servers; and figure 3, and column 7, lines 35 - 45; and column 6, lines 44 - 48; it would have been obvious that a server authenticates potential users).

ttt. Regarding claim 9:

uuu. Chen does not specifically teach:

VVV. wherein the step of making the manager determine includes the step of identifying the given design terminal by an electronic authentication number that is uniquely given to each authorized design terminal.

www. Dole appears to teach:

XXX. wherein the step of making the manager determine includes the step of identifying the given design terminal by an electronic authentication number that is uniquely given to each authorized design terminal (figure 2, Internet connected to servers; and figure 3, and column 7, lines 35 - 45; and column 6, lines 44 - 48; it would have been obvious that a server uses a uniquely assigned number from a network manager to uniquely identify each terminal).

yyy. Regarding claim 10:

zzz. Chen does not specifically teach:

aaaa. wherein the step of making the manager determine includes the step of identifying the given user by an ID and/or a PIN that are/is uniquely given to each authorized user.

bbbb. Dole appears to teach:

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cccc. wherein the step of making the manager determine includes the step of identifying the given user by an ID and/or a PIN that are/is uniquely given to each authorized user (figure 2, Internet connected to servers; and figure 3, and column 7, lines 35 - 45; and column 6, lines 44 - 48; it would have been obvious that a user needs a unique ID to use the network).

dddd. Regarding claim 11:

eeee. Chen does not specifically teach:

ffff. wherein the step of transmitting the custom library designing information includes the step of narrowing the authorized users to a minimum range.

gggg. Dole appears to teach:

hhhh. wherein the step of transmitting the custom library designing information includes the step of narrowing the authorized users to a minimum range (figure 2, Internet connected to servers; and figure 3, and column 7, lines 35 - 45; and column 6, lines 44 - 48; it would have been obvious that only an authorized user is allowed, which is a minimum range).

iiii. Regarding claim 12:

jjjj. Chen does not specifically teach:

kkkk. wherein if the manager has found the user not belonging among the authorized users, then the step (a) includes the step of transmitting the at least part of the IC designing information not including the custom library designing information at all.

llll. Dole appears to teach:

mmmm. wherein if the manager has found the user not belonging among the authorized users, then the step (a) includes the step of transmitting the at least part of the IC designing information not

including the custom library designing information at all (figure 2, Internet connected to servers; and figure 3, and column 7, lines 35 - 45; and column 6, lines 44 - 48; it would have been obvious that for an unauthorized user, the design would not be transmitted).

nnnn. Regarding claim 13:

oooo. Chen does not specifically teach:

pppp. wherein if the manager has found the user not belonging among the authorized users, then the step (a) includes the step of transmitting the at least part of the IC designing information not including at least a portion of the custom library designing information.

qqqq. Dole appears to teach:

rrrr. wherein if the manager has found the user not belonging among the authorized users, then the step (a) includes the step of transmitting the at least part of the IC designing information not including at least a portion of the custom library designing information (figure 2, Internet connected to servers; and figure 3, and column 7, lines 35 - 45; and column 6, lines 44 - 48; it would have been obvious that for an unauthorized user, the design would not be transmitted).

ssss. Regarding claim 14:

tttt. Chen does not specifically teach:

uuuu. wherein if the manager has found the user not belonging among the authorized users, then the step (a) includes the step of transmitting the at least part of the IC designing information including the at least a portion of the custom library designing information,

vvvv. Dole appears to teach:

www. wherein if the manager has found the user not belonging among the authorized users, then the step (a) includes the step of transmitting the at least part of the IC designing information

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including the at least a portion of the custom library designing information (figure 2, Internet connected to servers; and figure 3, and column 7, lines 35 - 45; and column 6, lines 44 - 48; it would have been obvious that for an authenticated user, the design would be transmitted).

xxxx. Regarding claim 17:

yyyy. Chen appears to teach:

zzzz. standard library storing means for storing standard library designing information (figure 2, element 220; it would have been obvious that parts were standard library designing information);

aaaaa. the at least part of the IC designing information including at least a portion of the standard library designing information that has been read out from the standard library storing means (figure 2, element 220), the newly designed IC information including new IC testing information to evaluate the new IC (paragraph 40, last sentence);

bbbbb. Chen does not specifically teach (in **bold italic underline**):

cccc. communication processing means for transmitting at least part of the IC designing information to a design terminal, which designs a new IC, through the Internet and receiving design information about the new IC from the design terminal through the Internet, the at least part of the IC designing information including at least a portion of the standard library designing information that has been read out from the standard library storing means, the newly designed IC information including new IC testing information to evaluate the new IC;

ddddd. library evaluating means for evaluating the new IC according to the newly designed IC information that has been transmitted from the communication processing means;

eeee. custom library storing means for storing custom library designing information and for receiving the newly designed IC information from

the communication processing means and adding the newly designed IC information to the custom library designing information, thereby updating the custom library designing information;

fffff. managing means for managing the custom library designing information and for determining whether or not at least a portion of the custom library designing information stored in the custom library storing means should be transmitted to the design terminal, wherein if the managing means has decided that the at least the portion of the custom library designing information should be transmitted to the design terminal, then the managing means adds the at least the portion of the custom library designing information to the at least part of the IC designing information by providing the at least the portion of the custom library designing information for the communication processing means.

ggggg. Dole appears to teach:

hhhhh. communication processing means for transmitting at least part of the IC designing information to a design terminal, which designs a new IC, through the Internet and receiving design information about the new IC from the design terminal through the Internet (figure 2, Internet connected to servers; and figure 3, and column 7, lines 35 - 45; and column 6, lines 44 - 48), ~~the at least part of the IC designing information including at least a portion of the standard library designing information that has been read out from the standard library storing means, the newly designed IC information including new IC testing information to evaluate the new IC;~~

iiii. custom library storing means for storing custom library designing information and for receiving the newly designed IC information from the communication processing means and adding the newly designed IC information to the custom library designing information, thereby updating the custom library designing information (figure 2, Internet connected to servers; and figure 3, and column 7, lines 35 - 45; and column 6, lines 44 - 48);

jjjjj. managing means for managing the custom library designing information and for determining whether or not at least a portion of the custom

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library designing information stored in the custom library storing means should be transmitted to the design terminal, wherein if the managing means has decided that the at least the portion of the custom library designing information should be transmitted to the design terminal, then the managing means adds the at least the portion of the custom library designing information to the at least part of the IC designing information by providing the at least the portion of the custom library designing information for the communication processing means (figure 2, Internet connected to servers; and figure 3, and column 7, lines 35 - 45; and column 6, lines 44 - 48).

kkkkk. Haase appears to teach:

lllll. library evaluating means for evaluating the new IC according to the newly designed IC information that has been transmitted from the communication processing means (third and fourth pages, section 2.4 Verification, especially automatic verification and running full tests without any user interaction; and fourth page figure 2, automatic self-checking verification);

mmmmm. Regarding claim 18:

nnnnn. Chen does not specifically teach:

OOOOO. The manager of claim 17, wherein the communication processing means receives a request for the custom library designing information from the design terminal over the Internet and forwards the request to the managing means, and wherein on receiving the request every time, the managing means determines whether or not at least a portion of the custom library designing information stored in the custom library storing means should be transmitted to the design terminal.

ppppp. Dole appears to teach:

qqqqq. wherein the communication processing means receives a request for the custom library designing information from the design

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terminal over the Internet and forwards the request to the managing means, and wherein on receiving the request every time, the managing means determines whether or not at least a portion of the custom library designing information stored in the custom library storing means should be transmitted to the design terminal (figure 2, Internet connected to servers; and figure 3, and column 7, lines 35 - 45; and column 6, lines 44 - 48).

rrrrr. Regarding claim 20:

sssss. Chen appears to teach:

ttttt. IC designing means for designing the new IC in accordance with the at least part of the IC designing information (figure 2);

uuuuu. including new IC testing information to evaluate the new IC that has been designed by the IC designing means (paragraph 40, last sentence);

vvvvv. Chen does not specifically teach (in **bold italic underline**)

wwwww. means for receiving at least part of the IC designing information from the manager through the Internet ;

xxxxx. means for transmitting newly designed IC information, including new IC testing information to evaluate the new IC that has been designed by the IC designing means, to the manager through the Internet, wherein the newly designed IC information that has been transmitted to the manager is added to the custom library designing information that is stored in the manager.

yyyyy. Dole appears to teach:

zzzzz. means for receiving at least part of the IC designing information from the manager through the Internet (figure 2, Internet connected to servers; and figure 3, and column 7, lines 35 - 45; and column 6, lines 44 - 48);

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aaaaaa. means for transmitting newly designed IC information, including new IC testing information to evaluate the new IC that has been designed by the IC designing means, to the manager through the Internet, wherein the newly designed IC information that has been transmitted to the manager is added to the custom library designing information that is stored in the manager (figure 2, Internet connected to servers; and figure 3, and column 7, lines 35 - 45; and column 6, lines 44 - 48).

bbbbbb. Haase appears to teach:

CCCCC.new IC testing information to evaluate the new IC that has been designed by the IC designing means (third and fourth pages, section 2.4 Verification, especially automatic verification and running full tests without any user interaction; and fourth page, figure 2, automatic self-checking verification).

dddddd. Regarding claim 22:

eeeeee. Chen appears to teach:

ffffff. standard library storing means for storing standard library designing information (figure 2, element 220; it would have been obvious that parts were standard library designing information);

gggggg. Chen does not specifically teach:

hhhhhh. communication processing means for transmitting at least part of the IC designing information to a design terminal, which designs a new IC, through the Internet and receiving design information about the new IC from the design terminal through the Internet, the at least part of the IC designing information including at least a portion of the standard library designing information that has been read out from the standard library storing means, the newly designed IC

information including new IC testing information to evaluate the new IC;

iiiiii. library evaluating means for evaluating the new IC according to the newly designed IC information that has been received at the communication processing means;

jjjjjj. custom library storing means for storing custom library designing information and for receiving the newly designed IC information from the communication processing means and adding the newly designed IC information to the custom library designing information, thereby updating the custom library designing information;

kkkkkk. managing means for managing the custom library designing information and for determining whether or not at least a portion of the custom library designing information stored in the custom library storing means should be transmitted to the design terminal, wherein if the managing means has decided that the at least the portion of the custom library designing information should be transmitted to the design terminal, then the managing means adds the at least the portion of the custom library designing information to the at least part of the IC designing information by providing the at least the portion of the custom library designing information for the communication processing means.

llllll. Dole appears to teach:

mmmmmm. communication processing means for transmitting at least part of the IC designing information to a design terminal, which designs a new IC, through the Internet and receiving design information about the new IC from the design terminal through the Internet, the at least part of the IC designing information including at least a portion of the standard library designing information that has been read out from the standard library storing means, the newly designed IC information including new IC testing information to evaluate the new IC (figure 2, Internet connected to servers; and figure 3, and column 7, lines 35 - 45; and column 6, lines 44 - 48);

nnnnnn. custom library storing means for storing custom library designing information and for receiving the newly designed IC

information from the communication processing means and adding the newly designed IC information to the custom library designing information, thereby updating the custom library designing information (figure 2, Internet connected to servers; and figure 3, and column 7, lines 35 - 45; and column 6, lines 44 - 48);

000000. managing means for managing the custom library designing information and for determining whether or not at least a portion of the custom library designing information stored in the custom library storing means should be transmitted to the design terminal, wherein if the managing means has decided that the at least the portion of the custom library designing information should be transmitted to the design terminal, then the managing means adds the at least the portion of the custom library designing information to the at least part of the IC designing information by providing the at least the portion of the custom library designing information for the communication processing means (figure 2, Internet connected to servers; and figure 3, and column 7, lines 35 - 45; and column 6, lines 44 - 48).

pppppp. Haase appears to teach:

qqqqqq. library evaluating means for evaluating the new IC according to the newly designed IC information that has been received at the communication processing means (third and fourth pages, section 2.4 Verification, especially automatic verification and running full tests without any user interaction; and fourth page, figure 2, automatic self-checking verification);

rrrrrr. Regarding claim 23:

ssssss. Chen appears to teach:

tttttt. IC designing means for designing the new IC in accordance with the at least part of the IC designing information (figure 2);

uuuuuu. Chen does not specifically teach:

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VVVVVV. means for receiving at least part of the IC designing information from the manager through the Internet;

WWWWWW. means for transmitting newly designed IC information, including new IC testing information to evaluate the new IC that has been designed by the IC designing means, to the manager through the Internet, wherein the newly designed IC information that has been transmitted to the manager is added to the custom library designing information that is stored in the manager.

xxxxxx. Dole appears to teach:

yyyyyy. means for receiving at least part of the IC designing information from the manager through the Internet (figure 2, Internet connected to servers; and figure 3, and column 7, lines 35 - 45; and column 6, lines 44 - 48);

ZZZZZZ. means for transmitting newly designed IC information, ~~including new IC testing information to evaluate the new IC that has been designed by the IC designing means,~~ to the manager through the Internet, wherein the newly designed IC information that has been transmitted to the manager is added to the custom library designing information that is stored in the manager (figure 2, Internet connected to servers; and figure 3, and column 7, lines 35 - 45; and column 6, lines 44 - 48).

aaaaaaa. Haase appears to teach:

bbbbbbb. including new IC testing information to evaluate the new IC that has been designed by the IC designing means (third and fourth pages, section 2.4 Verification, especially automatic verification and running full tests without any user interaction; and fourth page, figure 2, automatic self-checking verification);

ccccccc. Regarding claim 24:

ddddddd. Chen appears to teach:

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eeeeeee. standard library storing means for storing standard library designing information (figure 2, element 220; it would have been obvious that parts were standard library designing information);

ffffff. IC designing means for designing the new IC in accordance with the at least part of the IC designing information (figure 2);

ggggggg. Chen does not specifically teach:

hhhhhhh. communication processing means for transmitting at least part of the IC designing information to a design terminal, which designs a new IC, through the Internet and receiving design information about the new IC from the design terminal through the Internet, the at least part of the IC designing information including at least a portion of the standard library designing information that has been read out from the standard library storing means, the newly designed IC information including new IC testing information to evaluate the new IC;

iiiiiii. library evaluating means for evaluating the new IC according to the newly designed IC information that has been received at the communication processing means;

jjjjjjj. custom library storing means for storing custom library designing information and for receiving the newly designed IC information from the communication processing means and adding the newly designed IC information to the custom library designing information, thereby updating the custom library designing information;

kkkkkkk. managing means for managing the custom library designing information and for determining whether or not at least a portion of the custom library designing information stored in the custom library storing means should be transmitted to the design terminal, wherein if the managing means has decided that the at least the portion of the custom library designing information should be transmitted to the design terminal, then the managing means adds the at least the portion of the custom library designing information to the at least part of the IC designing information by providing the at least the portion of the

custom library designing information for the communication processing means.

lllllll. means for receiving at least part of the IC designing information from the manager through the Internet;

mmmmmmm. means for transmitting newly designed IC information, including new IC testing information to evaluate the new IC that has been designed by the IC designing means, to the manager through the Internet, wherein the newly designed IC information that has been transmitted to the manager is added to the custom library designing information that is stored in the manager.

nnnnnnn. Dole appears to teach:

0000000. communication processing means for transmitting at least part of the IC designing information to a design terminal, which designs a new IC, through the Internet and receiving design information about the new IC from the design terminal through the Internet, the at least part of the IC designing information including at least a portion of the standard library designing information that has been read out from the standard library storing means, the newly designed IC information including new IC testing information to evaluate the new IC (figure 2, Internet connected to servers; and figure 3, and column 7, lines 35 - 45; and column 6, lines 44 - 48);

ppppppp. custom library storing means for storing custom library designing information and for receiving the newly designed IC information from the communication processing means and adding the newly designed IC information to the custom library designing information, thereby updating the custom library designing information (figure 2, Internet connected to servers; and figure 3, and column 7, lines 35 - 45; and column 6, lines 44 - 48);

qqqqqqq. managing means for managing the custom library designing information and for determining whether or not at least a portion of the custom library designing information stored in the custom library storing means should be transmitted to the design terminal, wherein if the managing means has decided that the at least the portion of the custom library designing information should be transmitted to the

design terminal, then the managing means adds the at least the portion of the custom library designing information to the at least part of the IC designing information by providing the at least the portion of the custom library designing information for the communication processing means (figure 2, Internet connected to servers; and figure 3, and column 7, lines 35 - 45; and column 6, lines 44 - 48).

rrrrrrr. means for receiving at least part of the IC designing information from the manager through the Internet (figure 2, Internet connected to servers; and figure 3, and column 7, lines 35 - 45; and column 6, lines 44 - 48);

sssssss. means for transmitting newly designed IC information, ~~including new IC testing information to evaluate the new IC that has been designed by the IC designing means,~~ to the manager through the Internet, wherein the newly designed IC information that has been transmitted to the manager is added to the custom library designing information that is stored in the manager (figure 2, Internet connected to servers; and figure 3, and column 7, lines 35 - 45; and column 6, lines 44 - 48).

ttttttt. Haase appears to teach:

uuuuuuu. library evaluating means for evaluating the new IC according to the newly designed IC information that has been received at the communication processing means (third and fourth pages, section 2.4 Verification, especially automatic verification and running full tests without any user interaction; and fourth page, figure 2, automatic self-checking verification);

vvvvvvv. including new IC testing information to evaluate the new IC that has been designed by the IC designing means (third and fourth pages, section 2.4 Verification, especially automatic verification and running full tests without any user interaction; and fourth page, figure 2, automatic self-checking verification);

12. Claims 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen as modified by Dole and Haase as applied to claims 1 - 14 and 17 - 18, 20, 22 - 24 above, further in view of Frank (U.S. Patent Number 6,782,511).

a. The art of Chen as modified by Dole and Haase teaches a method for designing a new IC based on IC designing information transmitted from a manager, as recited in claims 1 - 14 and 17 - 18, 20, 22 - 24 above.

b. The art of Frank is directed to a service provider for an electronic design automation tool (Title).

c. The art of Frank and the art of Chen are analogous art because they both pertain to the art of electronic design automation tools.

d. Regarding claim 15:

e. Chen does not specifically teach:

f. wherein if the manager has found the user not belonging among the authorized users, then the step (a) includes the step of transmitting the at least part of the IC designing information, including the at least a portion of the custom library designing information, provided that the user pays an administrator of the manager and/or a designer of the custom library for the at least portion of the custom library designing information.

g. Frank appears to teach:

h. wherein if the manager has found the user not belonging among the authorized users, then the step (a) includes the step of transmitting the at least part of the IC designing information, including the at least a portion of the custom library designing information, provided that the user pays an administrator of the manager and/or a designer of the custom library for the at least portion of the custom library designing information (figure 1, element 108 pay-per-use EDA tool, and element 118, subscriptions \$).

i. The motivation to use the art of Frank with the art of Chen as modified by Dole and Haase would have been the benefit recited in Frank that the intellectual

property created can be sold efficiently and easily (Abstract, last sentence), which would have been recognized by the ordinary artisan as a benefit to generate income.

j. Therefore, as discussed above, it would have been obvious to the ordinary artisan at the time of invention to use the art of Frank with the art of Chen as modified by Dole and Haase to produce the claimed invention.

k. Regarding **claim 16**:

l. Chen does not specifically teach:

m. wherein if the manager has found the user not belonging among the authorized users and if the user is allowed to design the new IC by using the custom library designing information included in the at least part of the IC designing information, the method further includes, after the step (c), the steps of: determining whether or not the new IC has been designed based on the custom library designing information; and if the new IC has been designed based on the custom library designing information, alerting the user to pay for the custom library designing information used.

n. Frank appears to teach:

o. wherein if the manager has found the user not belonging among the authorized users and if the user is allowed to design the new IC by using the custom library designing information included in the at least part of the IC designing information, the method further includes, after the step (c), the steps of: determining whether or not the new IC has been designed based on the custom library designing information; and if the new IC has been designed based on the custom library designing information, alerting the user to pay for the custom library designing information used (figure 1, element 108 pay-per-use EDA tool, and element 118, subscriptions \$).

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13. **Examiner's Note:** Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings of the art and are applied to specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the Applicant in preparing responses, to fully consider the references in their entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the Examiner. The entire reference is considered to provide disclosure relating to the claimed invention.

Conclusion

14. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a).

Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

15. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

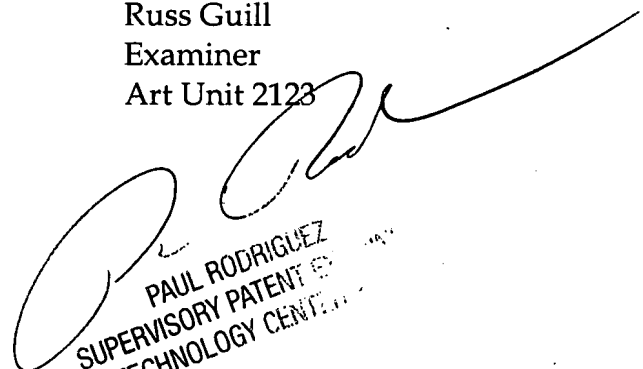
16. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Russ Guill whose telephone number is 571-272-7955. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Rodriguez can be reached on 571-272-3753. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the TC2100 Group Receptionist: 571-272-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

RG

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Art Unit 2123



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